

# LET THE MADNESS BEGIN

## Head Coach Pete Gillen "excited" about this year's team

by Cory McGann '98

Asst. Sports Editor

Head Coach Pete Gillen has his work cut out for him this year as he attempts to lead Providence College to the top of the BIG EAST Conference. The men in black have lost three starters, two of them to the NBA: center Troy Brown to the Atlanta Hawks and power forward Eric Williams to the Boston Celtics.

Going Gillen's way, however, is his stellar recruiting class. Dipping into the junior college, as well as the high school, pool of talent, Gillen has come up with not only talented players, but guys who can play his style of up-tempo ball.

The Friars will be led by lone senior Michael Brown. A four year starter, Brown played out of position last year due to the graduation of floor general Abdul Abdullah. Now Brown is back in his familiar role: as shooting guard. And shoot he must. If Brown can stroke the three with regularity, it will open up the inside for the bruisers and bangers, a necessity in the physical BIG EAST.

Gillen is calling on Brown to be the leader of his team, and the North Syracuse native accepts that challenge. "As a guard, I would sometimes have to calm the guys down on the floor, you know, pull them aside and say 'relax.' So for me, leadership comes naturally," explained Brown. As for the captainship, which he shares with junior Austin Croshere, he wishes to follow in the footsteps of the past captains. "Michael (Smith) and Dickey (Simpkins) handled it



The coaches: (l to r) Louis Orr, Bob Gonzalez, Pete Gillen, Tom Herrion (not pictured: Mike Malone).

with class. After them Eric (Williams) handled it with class. Now I want to handle it with class."

Gillen has high hopes for his lone senior. "He is the heart and soul of our team and I'm counting on him to be a leader for the team. For us, he is our anchor."

Croshere, a 6'9" power forward, spent the summer with USA Basketball playing with and against some great basketball talent. He was also a teammate of Georgetown's Othella Harrington and Allen Iverson, so he must be in great physical shape. After showing flashes of absolute brilliance during his sophomore year, the Los Angeles native truly came into his own during the stretch run of the season and during tournament time. Gillen is counting on Croshere to be a "very big part" of his squad this year. Fellow captain Brown is looking for Austin to "show the ropes" to the big guys during the tough BIG EAST season.

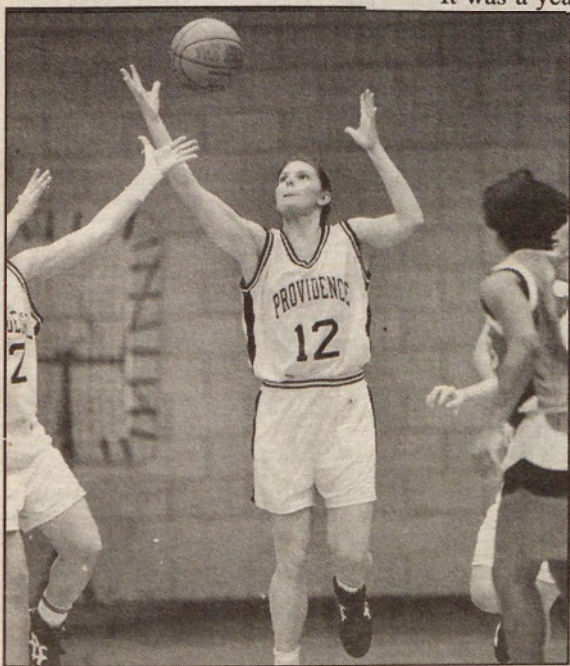
The remaining starting spots are completely up in the air at this point. Freshman God Shammgod will most likely take over at the point. Gillen would like to hand the ball over to this super quick ball handler for the next four years, and never have to worry about the all important position again. Shammgod could be considered the quickest player in the BIG EAST with only Iverson coming close. Baseline to baseline, no one in basketball is faster than Iverson. The first step, however, will belong to Shammgod. Be warned, though: "People have to remember that he's a freshman," cautioned

continued on page 3

# Lady Friars Look To Rebound

by Pieter J. Ketelaar '97

Asst. Sports Editor



Sarah Miller '96 sees the BIG EAST, and the ball, within her grasp.

After a disappointing 10-21 campaign that saw them finish ninth in the Big East Conference at 5-13, the Providence College women's basketball team under the steady tutelage of Coach Bob Foley is looking to rebound.

"It was a season from Hell," said Foley, "The injuries just kept on coming and our younger, less experienced players were thrust into the lineup. The lack of experience on the court hurt us last year but we have benefited tremen-

dously from it and will have terrific depth this season."

It was a year that began with great expectations but soon turned into a forgotten season due to key injuries to four of the Lady Friars' starters. Mandy Saunders (torn ACL), Jen Davis (stress fracture), Nadine Malcolm (broken wrist), and Ayanna Walden (knee injury) all spent considerable time sidelined but are back and ready to challenge the rest of the Big East as Providence searches for their first winning season since 1991-92 when they

went 21-9.

Coach Foley returns every player save one, Heide Moyano, who was going to return for her fifth year of eligibility but elected not to. This is a team with a strong nucleus of both young players and battle-hardened veterans who have experience against the UConn and the Seton Halls.

Leading the charge is freshman front court wonder Kerri Chatten returns for her sophomore season as she will look to bring her per-

formance to the next level after enjoying Big East All-Rookie Team Honors and shattering several Big East rookie records including points, rebounds, and field goals. Not only is she a threat inside but a skilled three-point marksman as well nailing 21 treys a year ago. She finished with 15.3 points per game and 7.9 rebounds to lead the squad.

"We never expected Kerri to be the impact player that she was for us last year," remarked Foley. "She exceeded our expectations and at times completely dominated the opposition. We are looking for her to have a spectacular future with us. She also played in Australia with Sarah Miller over the Summer and in Denver so she has more experience than any sophomore I've ever seen."

Seniors Lori Penrod and Sarah Miller will add veteran leadership as they will help Chatten with their solid 12 points and 12.5 rebounds

from last season. They, along with senior Jen Malone, have been named tri-captains and will serve as a vital front court duo.

A big key to the Lady Friars' success is the health of junior Nadine Malcolm, who has yet to play an injury-free season for Providence. In limited action last year she averaged 17.1 ppg and 8.7 rpg. Like Chatten she is not only dangerous inside but poses a real threat from the perimeter as she hit

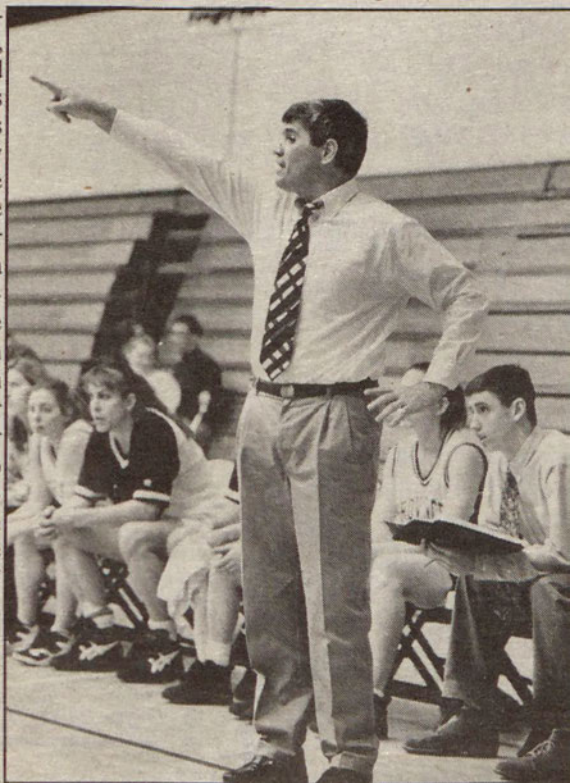
39.3% from downtown.

"She has the great 'P' word. Potential. She has the potential to be a dominant player in this conference. She continues to work hard and will be there to help take us to the next level. She possess a great feel for this game," commented Foley.

In the back court, there is a wealth of experience and talent. Senior Ayanna Walden will bring her veteran savvy to the table as she will be looking to get the ball to the explosive inside force of Chatten and Malcolm. She was tossed into the spotlight last year when Mandy Saunders' season was ended prematurely and, no doubt, has benefited from the experience. Unfortunately, Ayanna herself eventually fell prey to the injury bug after averaging 8.5 ppg and 3.1 assists in 24 games.

Looking to re-establish her spot on this team will be junior Mandy

continued on page 2



Head Coach Bob Foley is pointing his team to the top of the league.

## INSIDE...

Meet the players... 4,5

Chatten and Saunders..... 6

Life as a Friar..... 7

Conference pre-views..... 8



# Lady Friars: up to the challenge?

continued from page 1

Saunders after bowing out for the year just one game into the season with a torn ACL against Rutgers. She averaged 15.2 points and 4.4 rebounds her freshman year and should live up to the potential she showed then.

"Mandy is not a question mark. She is back from her injury 100%. She's the hardest worker I've ever

coached. She went through plenty of rehab so we are not worried about her. She's back playing without a brace and will be a key for us."

Three-point bomber Julie Wheeler will make her second trip through the Big East. Last year she led the conference in threes as she stepped up in the wake of injuries. She knocked down 82 treys and dished out a team-high 104 assists in her own unselfish way.

Junior Jen Davis finds herself in the same position as Saunders coming off an injury. She also had a stand-out freshman year like Saunders in which she averaged 12 ppg and 3 rpg while hitting 80 bombs from three-point land. The success of Saunders and Davis will give PC respectability in the Big East.

"Jen Davis had a great summer. She's been working out and is in the best shape of her life. She's shooting well and will give us the experience and quickness we so desperately missed. She's increased her defense tremendously and that will, in turn, increase her role."

Sophomore Shannon Bresnahan started many games late in the season because of, what else, injuries. She will add depth at the point with her ball handling skills. She can be a threat from the arc and her

development as player is important to this team as she will come in off the bench.

Seniors Jen Malone lend even more depth to a team that had its bench decimated last year. Malone, who joins Penrod and Miller as a tri-captain, gives one gritty performance after another.

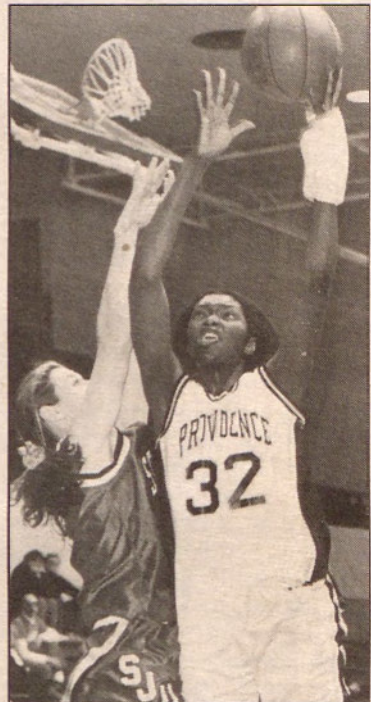
As far as new blood goes Coach

Foley feels he has good talent in Tavia Horton, guard, from Milwaukee, WI, Kerri Sullivan, guard, from Walpole, MA, and Dana Simonelli, center/forward, from Toms River, NJ.

"Hopefully we won't be in the same situation as last year and have to use our new players as often as we did. We're going to get

their feet wet first and gradually ease them into the system. There is no doubt they will help the program, especially on a team with four seniors. Last year players who were not ready became go-to people and that was a tough adjustment for them. We would not like a repeat of that. The lack of experience cost us in the short run but not in the long run," said Foley, "This team is totally ready to contend for the top spot. I would be extremely disappointed if we did not. We feel that this team can beat anyone and we will make some noise. We have to get the job done as a team. The attitude of this particular team is tremendous. They're hungry, excited and ready to go. We have a challenging schedule ahead of us especially with the opener against Stanford. We need all the students and fans to come out and supports us."

The Lady Friars kick off their season at home against Stanford on Sunday, November 26th. With the addition of three more teams to the Big East this year (Notre Dame, West Virginia, and Rutgers) the Lady Friars will have their work cut out for themselves. The Lady Friars hope fan support as they embark on what could be a great season.



Nadine Malcolm '97 on the drive.



Senior guard Ayana Walden breaks down the defense.

## 1995-96 PROVIDENCE COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

### NOVEMBER

18	Saturday	ISRAELI NATIONAL TEAM	1:00 pm
26	Sunday	STANFORD	2:00 pm
29	Wednesday	RHODE ISLAND	7:00 pm

### DECEMBER

3	Sunday	at Ohio State	2:00 pm
6	Wednesday	at Harvard	7:00 pm
9	Saturday	at Pittsburgh	2:00 pm
20	Wednesday	HOFSTRA	7:00 pm
28	Thursday	ST. MARY'S (CA)	7:00 pm
30	Saturday	ARIZONA	2:00 pm

### JANUARY

2	Tuesday	at Rutgers	7:00 pm
4	Thursday	MIAMI	7:00 pm
6	Saturday	ST. JOHN'S	2:00 pm
9	Tuesday	at Seton Hall	7:30 pm
12	Friday	at Connecticut	7:30 pm
14	Sunday	NOTRE DAME	2:00 pm
17	Wednesday	SYRACUSE	7:00 pm
20	Saturday	CONNECTICUT	2:00 pm
27	Saturday	BOSTON COLLEGE	2:00 pm
29	Monday	at Holy Cross	7:00 pm
31	Wednesday	at Miami	7:00 pm

### FEBRUARY

3	Saturday	VILLANOVA	7:00 pm
8	Thursday	at Georgetown	7:00 pm
10	Saturday	at West Virginia	2:00 pm
15	Thursday	SETON HALL	7:00 pm
17	Saturday	at Boston College	1:00 pm
21	Wednesday	PITTSBURGH	7:00 pm
24	Saturday	at Syracuse	7:00 pm

### MARCH

2-5	Sat-Wed BIG EAST TOURNAMENT	TBA
	(At Connecticut)	



Junior Jen Davis dishes "the rock."

## MIDNIGHT MADNESS STAFF

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# THE MADNESS CONTINUES

continued from page 1

Brown. "He is going to make mistakes."

Center will be a battle between holdover Piotr Szybilski and newcomer Ruben Garces. Szybilski, a fan favorite, was said to be out of shape for Gillen's style of play. This year, he looks great. Gillen offers the estimation of a drop of 20 to 25 pounds. Whatever the drop, he will be ready to make a run for the starting job. Close on his heels, though, will be Garces. Described as being as tall as Troy Brown but more cut (if that is possible), Garces is rumored to be a good rebounder and tough defender. Ruben can also run the floor well, a must for the "new" Friars.

Small forward looks like a crap shoot. Last year's starting shooting guard, Jason Murdock, will be displaced by Brown moving back to his natural position. Murdock might see time at the small forward due to his sweet shooting, but his size (6'3", 187 pounds) will hurt him. Do not be surprised if Fresh-

man Jamel Thomas steps in to start at the swingman position. Gillen says that "530" will be a surprise to the followers of Providence basketball. Thomas has a great body (6'6", 200 pounds), can handle the rock, and can take it to the rim. Murdock will probably spell Brown at the shooting guard spot.

The bench for Gillen looks pretty stacked, which will cause major competition for starting jobs. Sophomore point man Borja Larragan will back up Shammgod, and will do a very able job. Many times during his freshman year Larragan came off the bench to settle the Friars into a groove. Gillen also hastens to remind everyone that Bo is capable of playing off-guard, and at times will be on the floor with Shammgod.

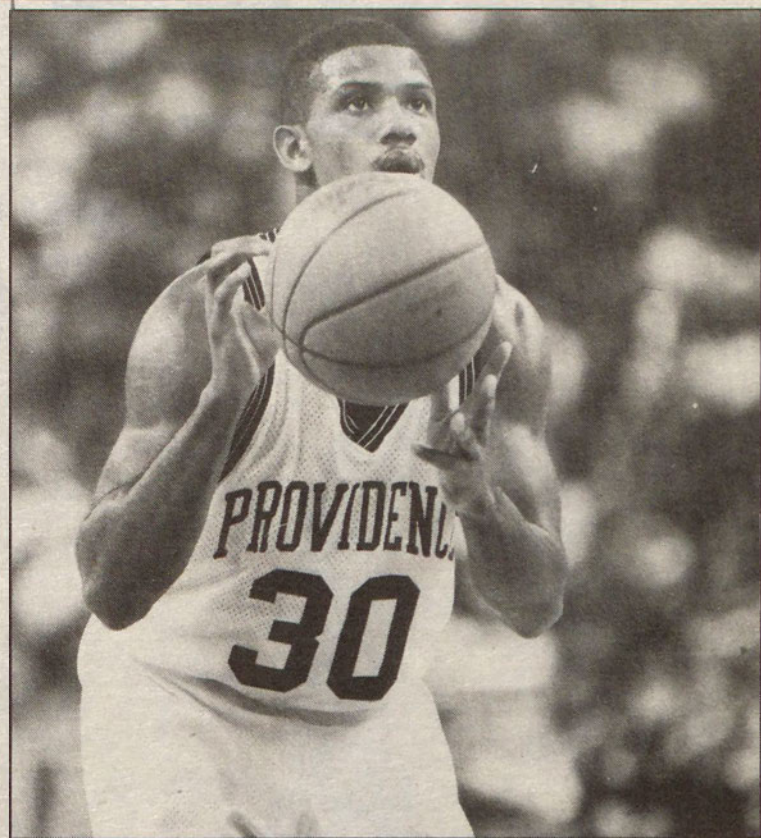
At forward, Gillen has many options, including Junior College Slam Dunk champion Derrick "Flight" Brown. Described by Brown as "a warrior," Flight is not afraid to take it to the hole. Freshman Llewellyn Cole is a slippery 6'6" who will need a year to bulk up and get used to the hard hitting

BIG EAST style. The positives for Cole is his 37 inch vertical leap and the fact that he has put on weight for this season.

Overall, both Head Coach Gillen and Co-captain Brown exuded positive vibes for the season. The favorite adjective of Gillen is "excited" while Brown sums it up quite simply: "I want to win another BIG EAST championship." Gillen knows that he is picked near the bottom of the league by pre-season prognosticators. In order to prove these doubters wrong, PC must control the pace of the games. In other words: run, run, run. Most of the teams in the league are physical. The Friars must use their speed and quickness to decimate their opponents. The goal seems to be to win the league championship and, after that, who knows?

"There is nothing like winning a BIG EAST championship," explains Brown. "Once you do it, you want to do it again."

Here's to doing it one more time.



Senior Michael Brown sums it up, "I want to win another BIG EAST championship."

## Three New Lady Friars Take the Floor

by Mike Friess '97  
Sports Writer

The 1995-96 Lady Friar Basketball Team is looking to rebound from last year's injury-riddled season when the girls finished with a disappointing 10-21 record and ninth place finish in the Big East. With four starters returning from injury, they hope to contend with the defending NCAA Champions, the University of Connecticut, for the Big East title. Important in the Friars' run at the championship will be the play of the newcomers, Freshmen Kerri Sullivan, Tavia Horton, and Dana Simonelli.

Kerri Sullivan spent her high school years playing for powerhouse Walpole High in Massachusetts. Walpole won the state championship in both her junior and senior years, finishing with a 25-1 record in 1995. Kerri's list of personal accomplishment is even more remarkable. She scored 1,297 points for Walpole. She averaged 14 points and 9 rebounds her senior year after scoring 18 points with 11 rebounds the year before. She was named to the Boston Globe and Boston Herald All-Scholastic Teams and was the first player in the history of Walpole High, male or female, to earn 12 varsity letters. She lettered in Volleyball and Softball, in addition to Basketball.

Sullivan commented on why she choose Providence. "It was close to home and had good academics. As far as basketball goes, it was a Division I school with a good coaching staff that I've worked with before. I came to a Post-players camp during my junior year and I learned a lot in just one day." Kerri hopes to bring strong post play and rebounding to

the Lady Friars playing in the center position at a height of 6'2".

Tavia Horton hails from Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she played for Washington High. She scored 1,045 points in high school as a point guard, averaging 13.2 points a game her senior season. Three-time all city, and one-time all state, she also led her team to back-to-back state championships as well as four consecutive conference championships. She also lettered in track and cross-country.

"Hopefully, I can use my speed at the point. We play a very up-tempo, fast-paced style of ball and my speed will be useful in the years to come." Tavia hopes to be starting soon at the point guard position at a height of 5'6".

Finally, there is Dana Simonelli. Dana is a 6'1" rebounding machine from Toms River, New Jersey. She had 866 rebounds in her college career, averaging 11 per game along with 14.8 points. She once collected 25 boards in a single game. She was named to the All-County team and named MVP at a 1995 Christmas Tournament.

"I hope to bring some strong rebounding to the team in the pivot. I really like the school a lot and the people are really cool. The coaching staff, especially Coach Foley, are really nice and easy to talk to." Hopefully, Dana can come up with some clutch rebounds for the Friars in the seasons to come.

Collectively, the Lady Friars have a strong group of young players to augment their already skilled veteran squad. With this right mixture of veteran leadership and young enthusiasm, should be in for a productive and exciting season this year, and down the road.

### IN CASE SOMEONE MISSED IT: MIDNIGHT MADNESS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14  
DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 P.M., CLOSE AT 10:30 P.M.  
ALUMNI HALL

COME CATCH FRIAR FEVER!

#### 1995-96 PROVIDENCE COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

##### OCTOBER

29 Sunday Mal Brown Scrimmage (Alumni Hall) 2:00 p.m.

##### NOVEMBER

4 Saturday WASHINGTON AAU 7:30 p.m.

14 Tuesday CROATIAN NATIONAL TEAM 7:30 p.m.

25 Saturday UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE 7:30 p.m.

28 Tuesday BROWN UNIVERSITY 7:30 p.m.

##### DECEMBER

3 Sunday SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY 2:30 p.m.

6 Wednesday at Seton Hall University 7:30 p.m.

9 Saturday at University of Rhode Island 8:00 p.m.

11 Monday UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN 8:00 p.m.

21 Thursday at University of Texas 8:30 p.m.

23 Saturday BOSTON UNIVERSITY 7:30 p.m.

28 Thursday COLGATE UNIVERSITY 7:30 p.m.

##### JANUARY

2 Tuesday SETON HALL UNIVERSITY 7:30 p.m.

6 Saturday at St. John's University 8:00 p.m.

8 Monday CANISIUS COLLEGE 7:30 p.m.

10 Wednesday at Syracuse University 8:00 p.m.

13 Saturday UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT 8:00 p.m.

20 Saturday WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY 7:30 p.m.

24 Wednesday at Villanova University 7:30 p.m.

28 Sunday at University of Pittsburgh 1:00 p.m.

##### FEBRUARY

1 Thursday at Boston College 7:30 p.m.

3 Saturday RUTGERS UNIVERSITY 2:00 p.m.

6 Tuesday at University of Connecticut 7:00 p.m.

10 Saturday UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH 4:00 p.m.

14 Wednesday UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI 9:00 p.m.

17 Saturday BOSTON COLLEGE 7:30 p.m.

21 Wednesday at University of Notre Dame 7:30 p.m.

27 Tuesday GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY 7:00 p.m.

##### MARCH

2 Saturday at University of Miami 7:30 p.m.

6 Wednesday at BIG EAST TOURNAMENT - Madison Square Garden

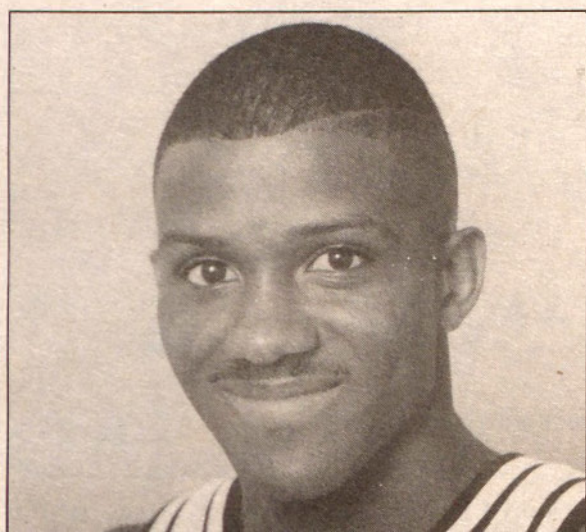
7 Thursday at BIG EAST TOURNAMENT - Madison Square Garden

8 Friday at BIG EAST TOURNAMENT - Madison Square Garden

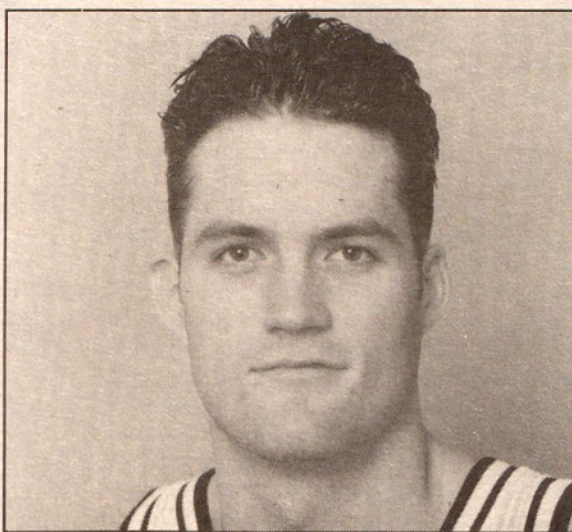
9 Saturday at BIG EAST TOURNAMENT - Madison Square Garden



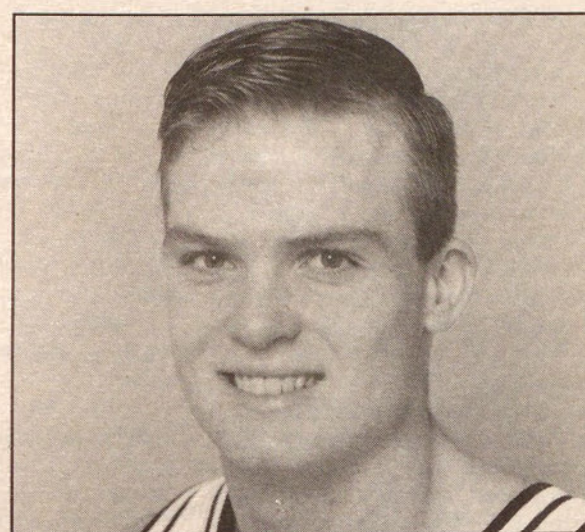
# MEET THE '95-'96 FRIARS



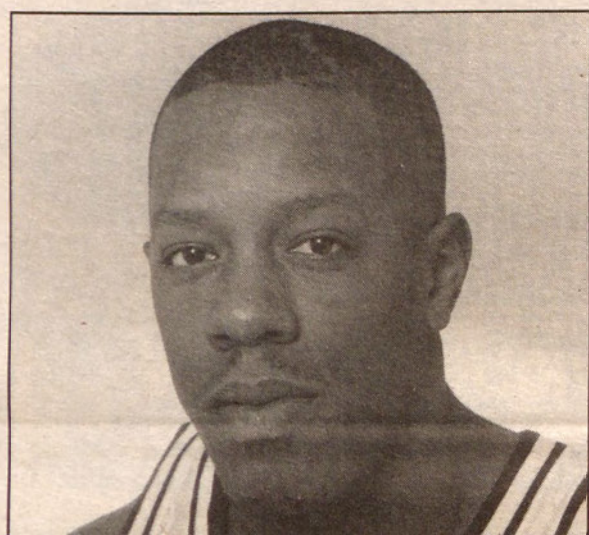
Co-captain Michael Brown '96



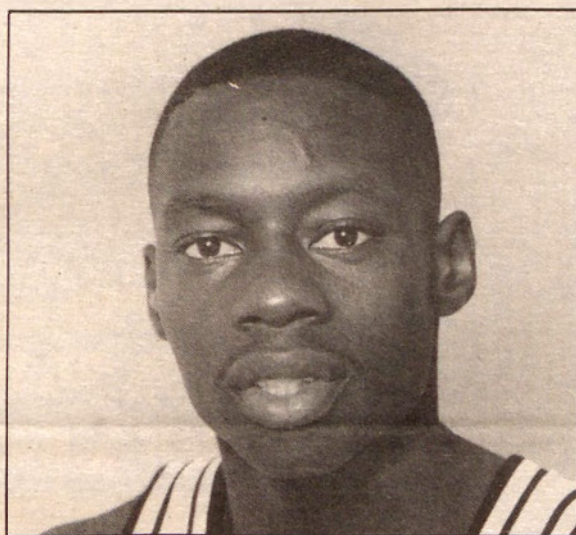
Co-captain Austin Croshere '97



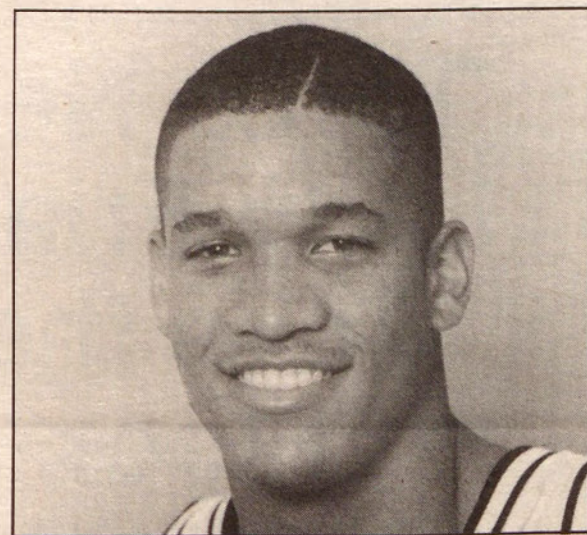
Mark Adams '98



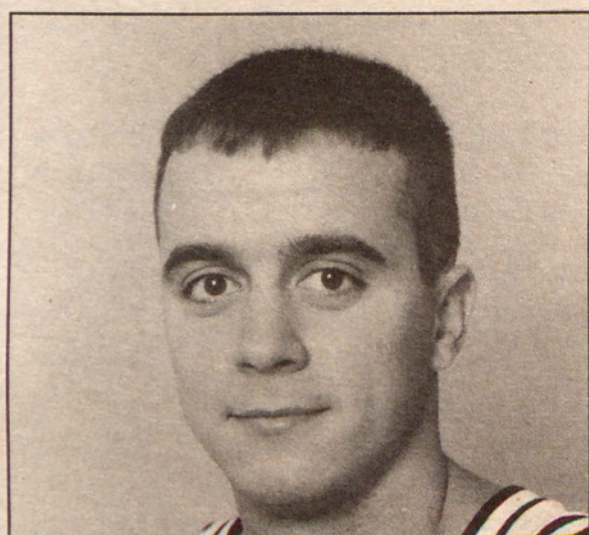
Derrick Brown '97



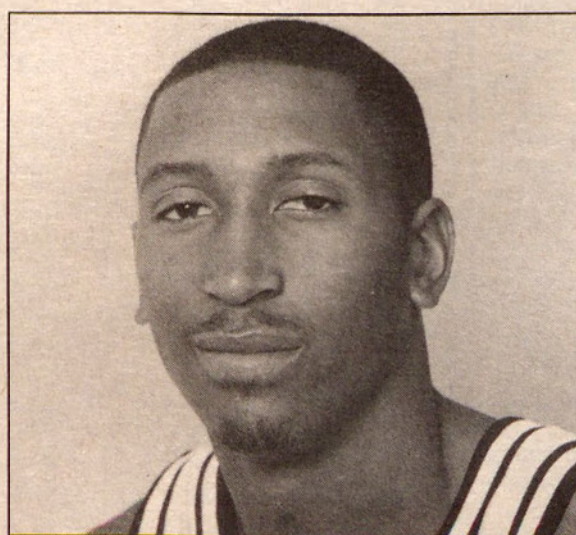
Llewellyn Cole '99



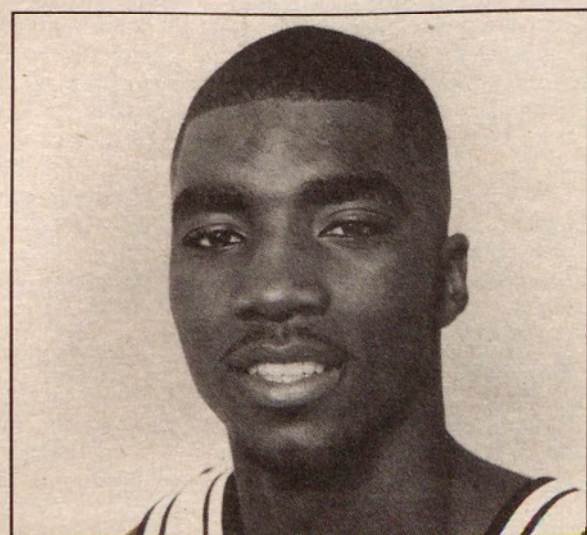
Ruben Garces '97



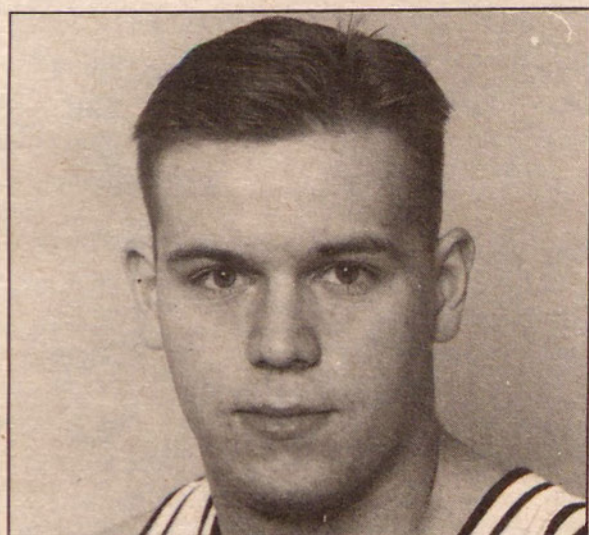
Borja Larragan '98



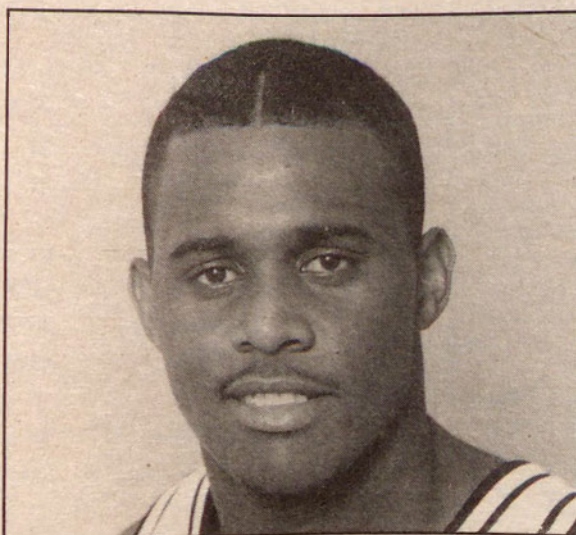
Jason Murdock '97



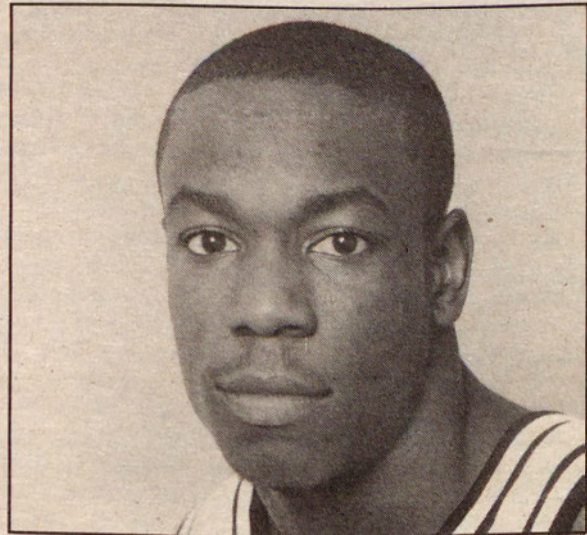
God Shammgod '99



Piotr Szybalski '98



Jamel Thomas '99



Corey Wright '99



# MEET THE '95-'96 LADY FRIARS



Tri-captain Jennifer Malone '96



Tri-captain Sarah Miller '96



Tri-captain Lori Penrod '96



Shannon Bresnahan '98



Kerri Chatten '98



Jennifer Davis '97



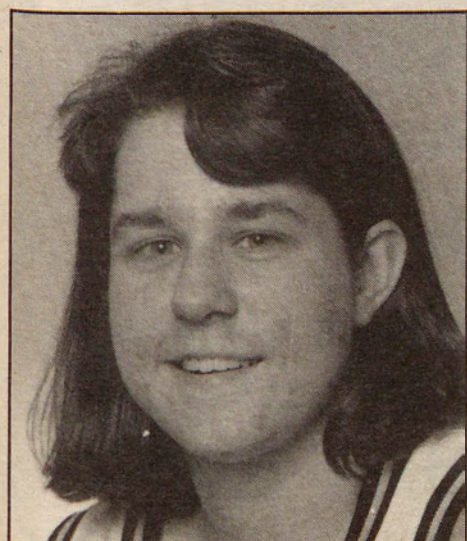
Nadine Malcolm '97



Mandy Saunders '97



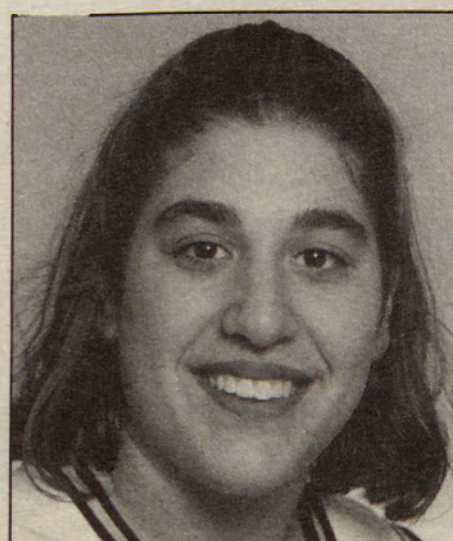
Ayanna Walden '96



Julie Wheeler '98



Tavia Horton '99



Dana Simonelli '99



Kerri Sullivan '99



# Spring Forward, Fall Back: Full Speed Ahead

by Rebecca Joyce '96  
Sports Writer

A torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in Mandy Saunders' left knee couldn't keep her from the court for long. After a summer spent dedicated to rehabilitation, she's ready for point guard action again. Sophomore roommate Kerri Chatten also spent the summer strengthening her game as a forward; she participated in the Olympic festival in Colorado, as well as the Big East All-Star squad that toured throughout Australia. They are both anticipating a good year, and there is reason to be excited to see them playing together again.

Chatten began to find a love for basketball in her preteen years at the city park. This strength carried her through a stand out career

at Hopkington High School to PC. She wasn't expected to contribute on the floor as a freshman, but a rash of injuries created an opportunity. Chatten seized it. Her breakthrough game was against Seton Hall, at which she scored 37 points. Hopes for her kept rising after the February game against St. John's where she was adept at grabbing rebounds, and snagged 20 boards (one of the seven Big East rookie records broken by Chatten). Hopes were fulfilled as Chatten became the Lady Friars' leading scorer or rebounder in all but one conference game last year.

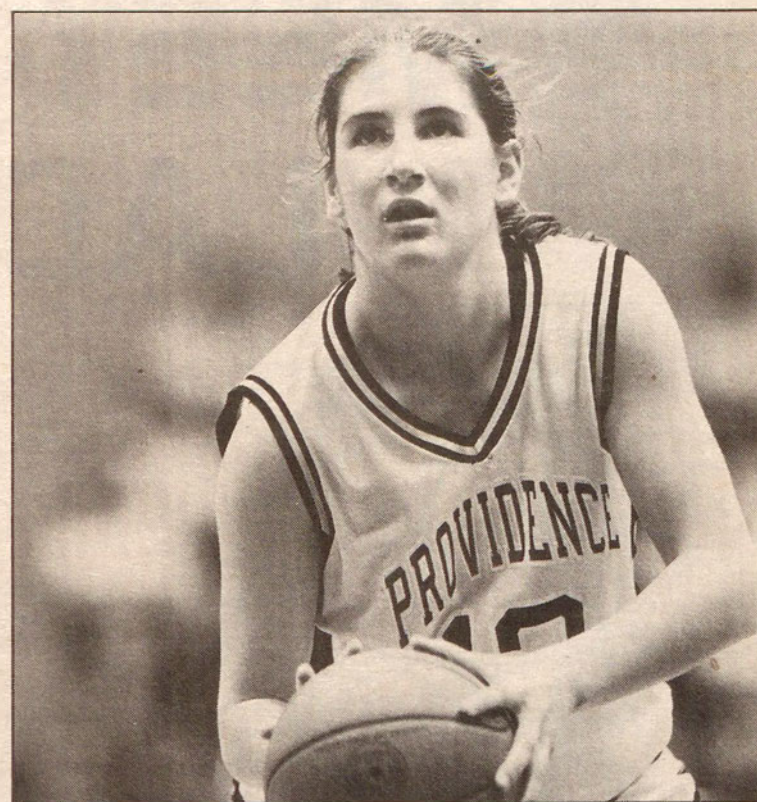
It is no wonder that after such a strong season, Chatten joined captain Sarah Miller in travelling to Australia as members of the Big East All-Star league with BE Coach of the Year Bob Foley. Although she loved being in Australia, Chatten picked up more game improvement techniques in the beginning of August at the Olympic festival. This was only the first level, but it will prove to be a worthwhile and once in a lifetime experience for Chatten.

Meanwhile, Saunders has been working to back the polished

Chatten. Like Chatten, Saunders had a basketball revelation in her freshman year. Saunders started in 24 games, and she averaged over 15 points per game. In the first 94-95 season game she played like a maniac, dropping 19 points in just 33 minutes. Saunders' powerhouse game playing came to a stall after the first 8 minutes in the second game of the year against Rutgers, which put her on the bench for the remainder of the season. After nursing her knee "back to full capacity" this summer, she's back.

Chatten is excited to be in the same game again. "Saunders is a really strong player, and she's very unselfish." Backing a strong forward line, Saunders is once again working her way to a starting position. Since she doesn't hog the ball, the junior forsee interplay with Chatten as positive; Saunders shoots out, "Chatten, she's got this desire to score. She wants the ball in her hands, which just makes passing easier for me."

With eyes wide and alive at five years old, Saunders held her first basketball, and began to learn of the game with her father's encouragement. Three years ago, still wide eyed and ready to expand the southern horizons of Meadowbrook High School, Saunders traveled from Richmond, Virginia to become one of PC's best shooters and the Big East Rookie of the Year. She will soon



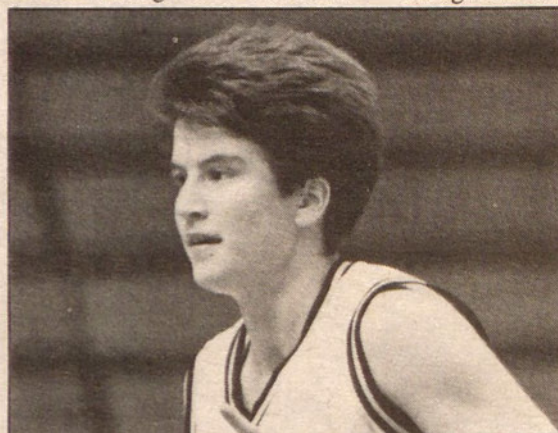
Kerri Chatten '98 eyes a Big East crown.

be playing with last year's Big East Rookie, Chatten. Saunders looks forward to playing together, saying, "We're roommates, so when we play together, it's natural." Saunders' keeps her eyes open for

passing outlets, and after a summer of practicing her shooting techniques, the roommate combination should be something to talk about.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AT PC HOME GAMES?

The Athletic Department is looking for people who are interested in singing the National Anthem at men's and women's basketball as well as men's hockey games. If you are interested send a tape to:  
Gregg Burke -- Athletic Department  
\*\*\* DEADLINE is Wednesday, October 18th



Mandy Saunders '97 leads the offense.

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# Learning the Life of a Friar

by John Carchedi '98  
Sports Writer

So you're a freshman, roughly four to five feet tall, and starting to get the hang of college life. You have a bounce in your step, can finally pronounce Meagher, don't have to travel in packs, doing your very own laundry and adjusting to life away from home. Then you're accidentally trampled, without warning, under the foot of simply the largest man you have ever seen. It's your first encounter with a PC hoop player.

One thing to keep in mind as you peel yourself off the pavement is that these basketball players are just as concerned with adjusting to a new school as you are.

Two big men making the adjustment from very different surroundings are junior college transfers Ruben Garces and Derrick "Flight" Brown. A Brooklyn native, Brown graduated last spring from Los Angeles City College, while Garces, who hails from Colon, Panama, is a recent graduate of Navaro J.C. in Texas.

Despite the new surroundings, the pair

seem comfortable a month and a half into the school year.

"It's kind of a different life here, for me, coming from New York City," explained Brown, a six-foot-six forward who won the junior college slam-dunk contest. "Then I went out to California, which is different, but still fast. Here things are slower, a lot slower.

"But I think it's nice," added Flight. "I'm getting along with everybody up here, and they're excited about having me here."

As for Garces, the 6'9" center looking to fill the Troy Brown role, the transition to the Northeast has been facilitated by a warm welcome.

"Everybody that I've met so far, pretty much all are nice people," Garces said with a quiet accent. "That's the way it is, you treat someone nice they're going to treat you nice. I like the people. I like the teachers, and everything's going pretty good right now.

But why did two of the top junior college recruits trade their usual surroundings for the suburban life of PC? Friar fans can thank academics.

"First-of all, (PC) had a 100% graduation rate: all the players that came through here graduated," noted Brown. "I was impressed with that, and my mother was impressed with that. That's the main reason."

So why do academics carry so much weight? Like every freshman's mother, Mrs. Brown has a lot of power, and keeps a close eye on her son's grades. But Flight also wants to set an example for his younger brothers, soon to follow his footsteps.

"My mother and my grandmother play a big part in my life, and I have younger brothers growing up. That really makes a difference. It really makes me want to do something with my life.

"When I got my degree from my junior college, my family came all the way to the West coast for my graduation," continued Brown. "That meant a lot to me and defi-

nitely my family."

When asked how he likes the social life at Providence, Garces' answer would make any mother proud.

"I'm not the kind of guy that goes out a lot," said Garces. "I go out a little bit. But I came here to get something done. I didn't come here to party or go out a lot. I came here to play ball and finish my schooling. I like to study. That's why I came here, because I knew if I did my best I can graduate from here."

So, thanks to a good work ethic on and off the court, the pair seem to have adjusted to life in Friar land. If you are a freshman, there's no need to cower in fear, for these kids are trying to make the best of their time here like the rest of us. Just watch out for size 16 Adidas' overhead.

## The Promise of Youth

by Scott Palmieri '97  
Sports Writer

The "madness" quietly began several months ago when rumors of Providence's recruiting class were passed among the hopeful fans who geared themselves for the next season. Now, as the season approaches, the new class, full of talent, enters and the fans are full of anticipation. Coach Gillen and his assistants worked hard to sign five of the elite from the recruiting field, a group viewed as one of the nation's top ten recruiting classes. The loss of a secure team nucleus has turned into a collection of young, exciting, but mostly untested talents. This year's squad will be faster with players full of potential and flare.

Freshman God Shammgod hales from New York, New York, where he attended LaSalle Academy High School. Shammgod, who stands in at six feet, is an up-tempo player who will fit well into Coach Gillen's trademark fast pace style. He has excellent speed and ball handling skills. He has great court presence and can be a spark for the PC offense. His ability to find the open man will put him in good position to fight for the point guard slot from Bo Larragan. Shammgod averaged 9.3 assists a game at LaSalle and 23.7 points. His play as a senior earned him Third Team Parade All-American honors. He also played in the 1995 McDonald's All-American Classic in April and will participate in this summer's U.S. Olympic Festival.

Moving to small forward, we see the emergence of two other newcomers. Both Derrick Brown and Jamel Thomas hale from Brooklyn, New York. Brown, a 6'-6" junior, was a junior college all-star at Los Angeles City College where he earned 21 points and 10 rebounds a game. He was placed in the Top 30 junior college prospects for last year. He will be looked to for his excellent jumping ability and his strong perimeter shooting. Brown is expected to see much time as he fit neatly into the Friars' up tempo game plan.

Brown will battle for the starting spot with Thomas, who can also step

in at power forward. Jamel Thomas could be the sleeper of this collection of rookies. The six foot freshman's strengths lie in his passing and rebounding. He stepped up his game his senior year at Lincoln High School, and along with his cousin, the highly touted Georgia Tech freshman Stephon Marbury, helped his team reach the N.Y. State title game. He averaged 16 points and 10 rebounds per game. One of his honors included selection on the New York Daily News First Team PSAL Brooklyn All-Star Team. The coaches are encouraged by his ability to play in the open court style, and his seemingly limitless potential.

Completing the group of four from the New York connection of rookies is 6'-6" Llewellyn Cole, who is also expected to make an important contribution. He, too, can play either forward position. The hard-working Cole is blessed with tremendous athletic ability. His speed, quickness, and leaping skills will bring much needed versatility to the Friars' lineup. He will be expected to excel defensively and contribute to PC's pressing game. Cole averaged 11 points, 7 rebounds, and three blocked shots a game at Maine Central Institute.

Rounding off the cast of players is 6'-9", is Colon, Panama's Ruben Garces, a junior transfer from Navarro Junior College. He, like Derrick Brown, was ranked among the Top 30 juco players in the country. Garces runs the floor quite well for his size and plays center or forward. He will be valued for his rebounding and defensive strengths. Garces can score in the paint as well as from the perimeter. At Navarro, he averaged 13.3 points and 8.2 rebounds a game.

This collection of newcomers transforms Providence into a different team with a fast-paced style of play. Co-captains Michael Brown and Austin Croshere must lead this young squad under Pete Gillen's guiding hand. The team must create a chemistry where these new talents can contribute. These five rookies will be thrust upon the scene this Saturday night in an eruption of cheers at midnight. The real madness for them, however, will start Sunday morning.

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## Women's Big East Preview: Huskies Pick of Litter

by Pieter J. Ketelaar '97  
Asst. Sports Editor

by Todd McKeating '97  
Sports Writer

The Women's side of Big East Conference looks to get even stronger this year adding West Virginia, Notre Dame, and Rutgers to an already impressive lineup of teams including last year's undefeated national champion, Connecticut (35-0), who won the most Division I games by a school ever in men's or women's basketball history.

**Connecticut** will be lethal once again even though they lose consensus national player of the year Rebecca Lobo. All-Americans Kara Wolters and Jen Rizzotti are back as is Big East Rookie of the Year Nykesha Sales. Coach Geno Auriemma has a fine squad and returns all but three players (Lobo, Pam Webber, and Jill Gelfenbein) and has a solid recruiting class to once again challenge for Big East bragging rights.

**Boston College** looks to improve off of a 6-21 (3-15) season. Coach Cathy Inglesse returns ten players while losing only three. Holly Porter averaged 16.3 points and 8 boards and will lead this team. Aimee McGuire, who missed time last year with a torn ACL, is back at full strength. Terri McCormick and Cecilee Campbell will do the dirtywork inside as BC hopes to come on strong this season.

**Georgetown** returns seven while losing five players including three-point phenom Colleen Hanrahan. Coach Pat Knapp looks to continue the rebuilding process after a sub-par 11-17 (6-12) campaign. Tricia Penderghast and Kacy Williams will lead the attack as Ebiho Ahonkhah will come off the bench for some added punch. Kim Gallon will be key from the perimeter and Tesha Nixon will be in the mix.

**Miami** looks to regain their form of 1993 when they went 24-7 as opposed to the present when they went 11-16 (8-10). They return eleven while losing five. Coach Ferne Labati hopes to get the team well again as they were bitten by the injury bug early and often last year. Octavia Blue a Big East All-Rookie selection leads a young team as their top scorer and rebounder. Jennifer Jordan and Christine Olson will also see considerable time for UM. The rest of the position will be battled for a Miami looks to find their former greatness in '95-'96.

**Notre Dame** enter the Big East after a 21-10 year in which they were 15-1 in the MCC. Coach Muffet McGraw returns four starters on a team that has had six twenty win seasons in their last eight years. Junior center Katryna Gaither returns after leading the team with 19 ppg. Junior Beth Morgan adds punch as the first Notre Dame player to reach 1,000 points in two seasons.

**Pittsburgh** loses just three players following a 17-10 (10-9) season. Coach Kirk Bruce has a wealth of talent in JoJo Guzman, Jaime Warren, and Kelli Nelson. Stephanie Petho is their top returning scorer and Jun-

ior college transfer LaToya Durham will be there to unleash the bomb from three-point range as the Lady Panthers look to climb even higher in the Big East.

**Rutgers** comes over from the Atlantic 10 to the Big East after going 17-13 (13-6). Lead by new Coach Vivian Stringer the team returns three starters while welcoming four top-rated newcomers. Top returnee Liz Hanson the team's scoring leader and two-time A-10 All-Conference pick will anchor the team. Other returning starters are Amy Reynders and Alicia Sheeler on a team weakened by the graduation of their front court.

**St. John's** comes off a 15-12 (10-8) year losing eight players while returning only six. Coach Joe Mullaney hopes that he can keep things together turning the team over to less experienced players. Out is Tawana Jackson, Big East leading scorer, and in are Yvonne Wilson from Georgia Tech and Lynn Lattanzio. These veteran should be the nucleus of a strong storm to come.

**Seton Hall** finished third in the Big East last year at 24-9 (12-6) but Coach Phyllis Mangina feels they have the horses to catch UConn. The Hall loses just four players while returning a strong figure of seven. Dana Wynne, the nation's top rebounder, returns to lead a young team. Senior Texlin Quinney is expected to bring her game to the next level this year. Senior Tynetta Turner will add a spark from off the bench as the Lady Pirates will try to take the top spot in the Big East.

**Syracuse** continues the comeback trail after a 7-20 (5-13) season. Coach Marianna Freeman loses just two players while returning a grand total of ten. Bolstered by five returning starters the future could be bright for the Orangewomen. Kristyn Cook is the top returning scorer and Raquel Nurse continues her solid development as one of the Big East best new players.

**Villanova** looks to be in the thick of a conference race with UConn and Seton Hall. The team finished second last year at 19-9 (13-5). They lost just three players while ten return along with three redshirts. With an ample amount of bodies Coach Harry Perretta has Denise Dillon, Jen Snell, and Sue Glenning to give the ball to. There is no question about the depth of this team as the Cats are ready to roar in the Big East this year.

**West Virginia** rounds out the conference moving over from the A-10 after a 8-20 (5-13) year. Coach Susan Walvius begins her first season as the Lady Mountaineer's coach returning ten players. Two talented rookie, Christie Lambert and Talisha Hargis, return and will be the future of this first year team in the Big East.

That's how they stack up in the Big East this year. Look for UConn and Villanova to dominate play and all the other team to take their leads from them. Once again Big East basketball looks to be exciting as ever with more teams and some of the best talent in the country.

## Men's Big East Preview: The 'Cats Meow

by Keith Christensen '96  
Sports Editor

by Cory McGann '98  
Asst. Sports Editor

With the addition of Notre Dame, Rutgers, and West Virginia to the BIG EAST, league play will be that much tougher this year. The abundance of quality competition will most likely make the BIG EAST the nation's strongest conference. The scheduling this year will be different. Each team will play every school in the league at least once and half of the opponents twice. This places additional emphasis to beat those top 20 teams when they come to town, because it may well be the only meeting of the year.

The BIG EAST graduated six players to the NBA: Syracuse's Lawrence Moten (Vancouver), Connecticut's Donny Marshall (Cleveland), Miami's Constantin Popa (Los Angeles Clippers), Georgetown's Don Reid (Detroit), and Providence's Eric Williams (Boston) and Troy Brown (Atlanta). Returning, however, are Pittsburgh's Jerry McCullough, Villanova's Kerry Kittles, and Providence's Austin Croshere, among others.

Leading the pack will be **Villanova**, which lost a total of three players who combined for a scant 14.6 points per game. They return pretty much everyone else from a team that won the league title last year. The 'Cats will be looking for senior guard Kerry Kittles to lead them to the promised land this year. Last year's BIG EAST Player of the Year turned down the NBA for a chance to advance his team further in the NCAA tournament. He led the league in scoring (23.2) and three-point shooting (.450) last year and finished second in field goal percentage (.570) and steals (2.5). Not to be outdone are his teammates, Jason Lawson and Eric Eberz, who were second team All-Big East selections. Villanova has a solid starting five, depth, and experience that will make them tough to beat.

Following close on their heels will be **Georgetown**. The Hoyas had high expectations last year, but could not seem to put things together. This could be the year. Sophomore point man Allen Iverson will handle the ball again this year, and hopefully the rest of the starters will have adjusted to his fast paced style. Senior center, Othella Harrington has never quite played up to his expectations, and is due for a breakthrough season. Third team all-league small forward Jerome Williams spent the summer with Harrington and Iverson with USA Basketball and should be ready to make a large contribution to the Hoya offense.

Two-time defending regular season champ **Connecticut** will challenge for the league title once again. Though the Huskies graduated key contributors Donny Marshall and Kevin Ollie, they return three starters, including superstar Ray Allen. Allen will team with Doron Sheffer to form the league's best backcourt duo. UConn also returns Travis Knight and Eric Heyward at center and Kirk King at forward. In order to challenge for the league crown, though, Jim Calhoun is going to have to find someone to replace Marshall's fifteen points a game.

Look for **St. John's** to make a big run at the top this year. Rumors abound that sensational sophomore Felipe Lopez will bolt to the NBA next year, but look for the Dominican dynamo to power the Red Storm to a strong season. Supporting Lopez will be underrated center Zendon Hamilton, who averaged 11.4 ppg last season, Tarik Turner and Maurice Brown. James Scott and his 14 ppg graduated, and underachieving Roshown McLeod transferred to Duke. Still, the Johnnies should field their best team in years.

Even though the names are not as famil-

iar, **Syracuse** always boasts a strong squad. John Wallace nearly left for the NBA, but decided to stay. Lawrence Moten and Lucius Jackson graduated, though, and Michael Lloyd left school, so Wallace won't have much help. The Orangemen will be good, but do not expect them to challenge 'Nova, G'town, or UConn for the conference crown.

**West Virginia** should be the best of the newcomers. The Mountaineers return four starters, including their starting backcourt of Selden Jefferson and Cyrus Jones, from a team that went 13-13 last year. The biggest adjustment for the Mountaineers will be the physical brand of basketball that is played in the Big East. West Virginia will only be as good as its young big men.

**Providence** will finish seventh in the conference this year. Expect Gillen's club to be a lot better at the end of the season than they will be early on, and they could surprise in the Big East Tournament.



If they can stay healthy, **Notre Dame** could be decent. That is a big "if," however. The senior backcourt tandem of Keith Kurowski and Ryan Hoover is a solid duo. Coach John MacLeod will need them both on the floor at the same time all season. Concern lies in the physical strength of the ball club. The Fighting Irish, new to the conference scene, will have to battle tough teams day in and day out. This increases the injury factor.

**Miami** was a pleasant surprise last year. No longer the cream puff of the conference, they finished with a 9-9 conference record with upsets against Georgetown and St. John's. Unfortunately, they lost 7'4" center Constantin Popa to the NBA. Their strength this year lies in their deep backcourt, led by Steven Edwards, who also sees time at the small forward position.

With Danny Hurley back and playing decent ball again, **Seton Hall** should be somewhat respectable. Senior Adrian Griffin is one of the most unheralded players in the league and is expected to step up his game. If sophomore Donnell Williams continues to improve from his standout rookie year, the Pirates could play the spoiler.

One of these days **Rutgers** will emerge as a power in the Big East. Not this year, though. Of the three newcomers, the Scarlet Knights stand to gain the most from joining the Big East. They will eventually parlay their conference membership into a serious recruiting advantage, but they will take their lumps for the next couple of seasons. Croatian Albert Karner spearheads the Rutgers' attack, but he will not be able to keep them out of the second division. Geoff Billet is a freshman to watch.

Ralph Willard guided an injury-depleted **Pittsburgh** team to a 10-18 record last year, and the Panthers should be better this season. If point guard Jerry McCullough is able to return from injury and lead the squad, Pitt could surprise some teams. Still, it is difficult to imagine the Panthers breaking out of the bottom of the conference this year. The league is simply too deep.

1994 sure most seem like a long time ago on Chestnut Hill. That was the year **Boston College** advanced to the Elite Eight. Last year, the Eagles struggled to replace four departed starters. Danya Abrams will lead this year's version, just as he did last year, but he will not receive enough help to keep the Eagles out of the cellar. Prized point guard Chris Herren left after one disappointing season, and BC is a long way from the upper-echelon of the conference.

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